


STEEL
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L. SIMONSON • BATISTA • FABER

STEEL

APPROVED
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MAXIMUM
ORBIT **1**
 OF 3



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MAJOR TOM • BATISTA • "GROUND CONTROL" JANKE



WE'RE
HERE AT
LAST,
B'ARR.

SURE,
BUT HOW'LL
WE GO ABOUT
FINDIN'
HER?

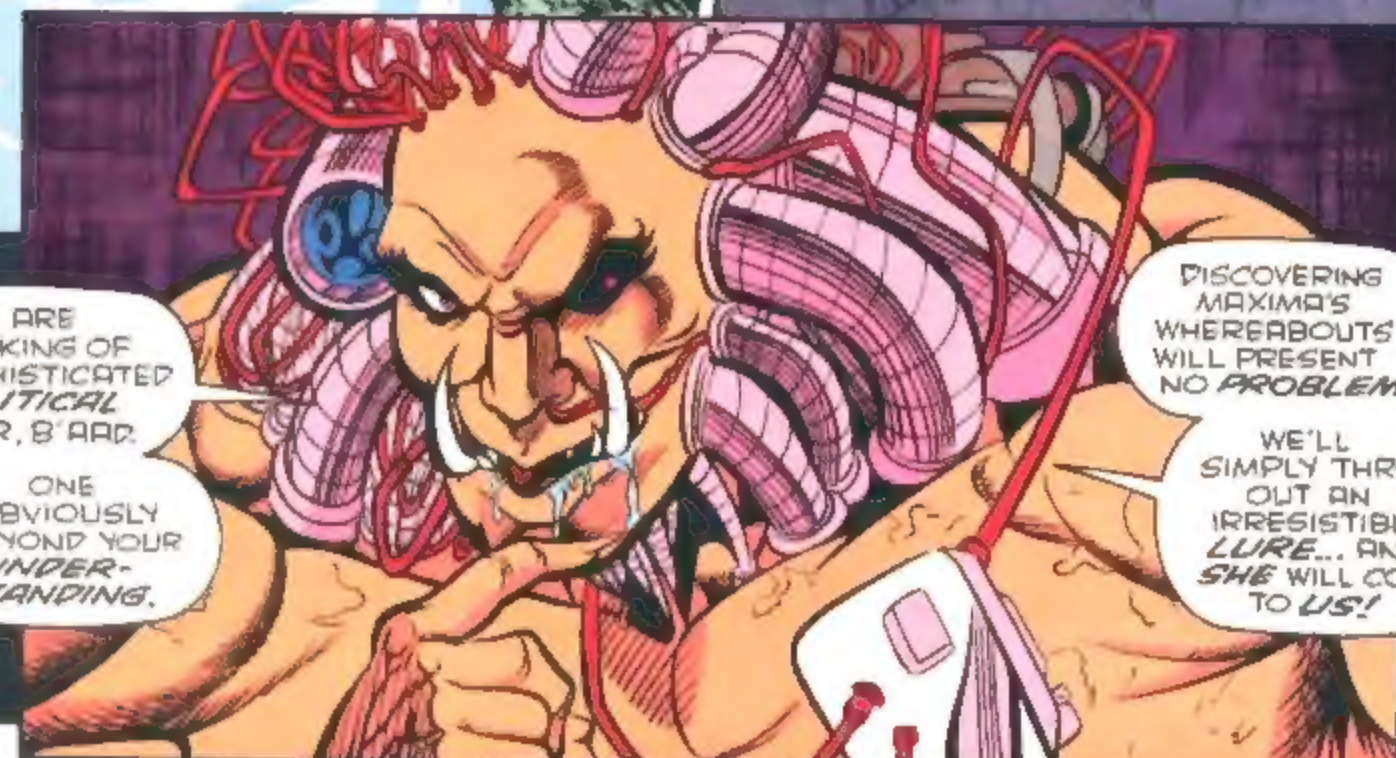
THAT'S
ONE BIG
WORLD
DOWN
THERE!

WE WON'T
HAVE TO
SEARCH FOR
MY BETROTHED,
B'ARR.

BETROTHED,
EH? THAT WHAT
MOTHER CALLS
IT, DE'GINE?

AND NOW
WE WILL
BEGIN TO DO
MY **MOTHER'S**
BIDDING.

WHERE
I COME
FROM, WE
CALL IT **KID-**
NAPPING!



YOU ARE
SPEAKING OF
A SOPHISTICATED
POLITICAL
MATTER, B'ARR.

ONE
OBVIOUSLY
BEYOND YOUR
UNDER-
STANDING.

DISCOVERING
MAXIMA'S
WHEREABOUTS
WILL PRESENT
NO **PROBLEM.**

WE'LL
SIMPLY THROW
OUT AN
IRRESISTIBLE
LURE... AND
SHE WILL COME
TO **US!**

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— Ha'sa — nom deplume —

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FIRE POWER



THE
CEILING'S
ABOUT TO
GO!

I'VE GOT
THE BEAM!
GO ON! GET
THE CHILDREN
OUT OF HERE!

YOU
GOT IT,
STEEL!
WE'RE
ON OUR
WAY!

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RICH FABER & ANDE PARKS — Inkers
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STEEL CREATED BY LOUISE SIMONSON
& JON BOGDANOVE



HERE
THEY
COME!

WHERE'S
STEEL?

GET
THE PARA-
MEDICS OVER
HERE!

HE'S
STILL IN
THERE!



WE'VE
GOT TO GO
BACK! THE
CEILING!
IT'S ABOUT
TO--

OH NO!
S-STEEL!

DON'T
WORRY,
SWEETHEART!
THIS ARMOR'S
TOUGHER THAN
IT LOOKS!

YOU
AN'
ME...



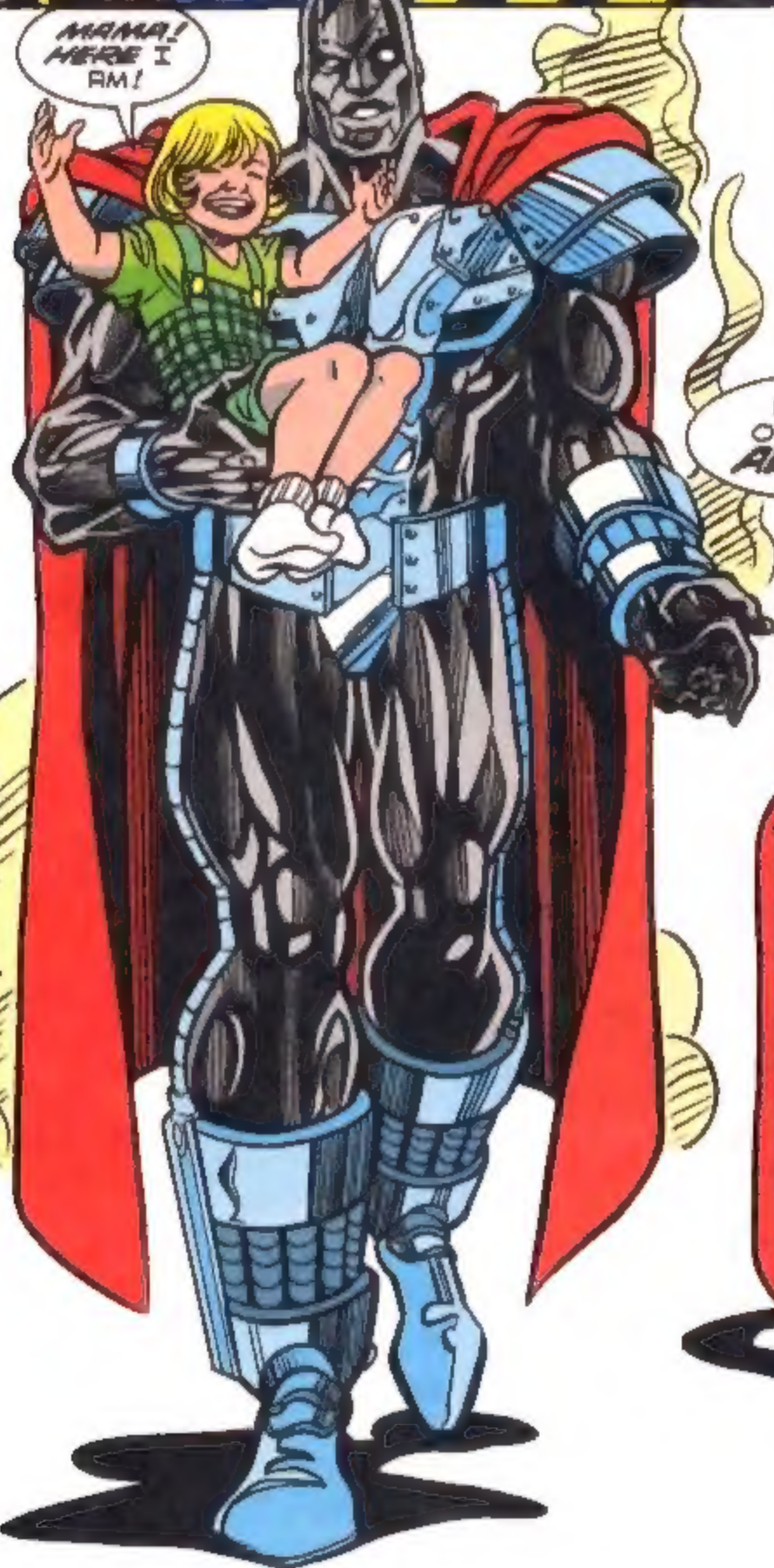
"...WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE!"

YOU'LL *SEE*, SHEILA! STEEL WILL SAVE HER!

BUT...HOW COULD SHE *SURVIVE* IN THERE? SHE'S SO *LITTLE*.

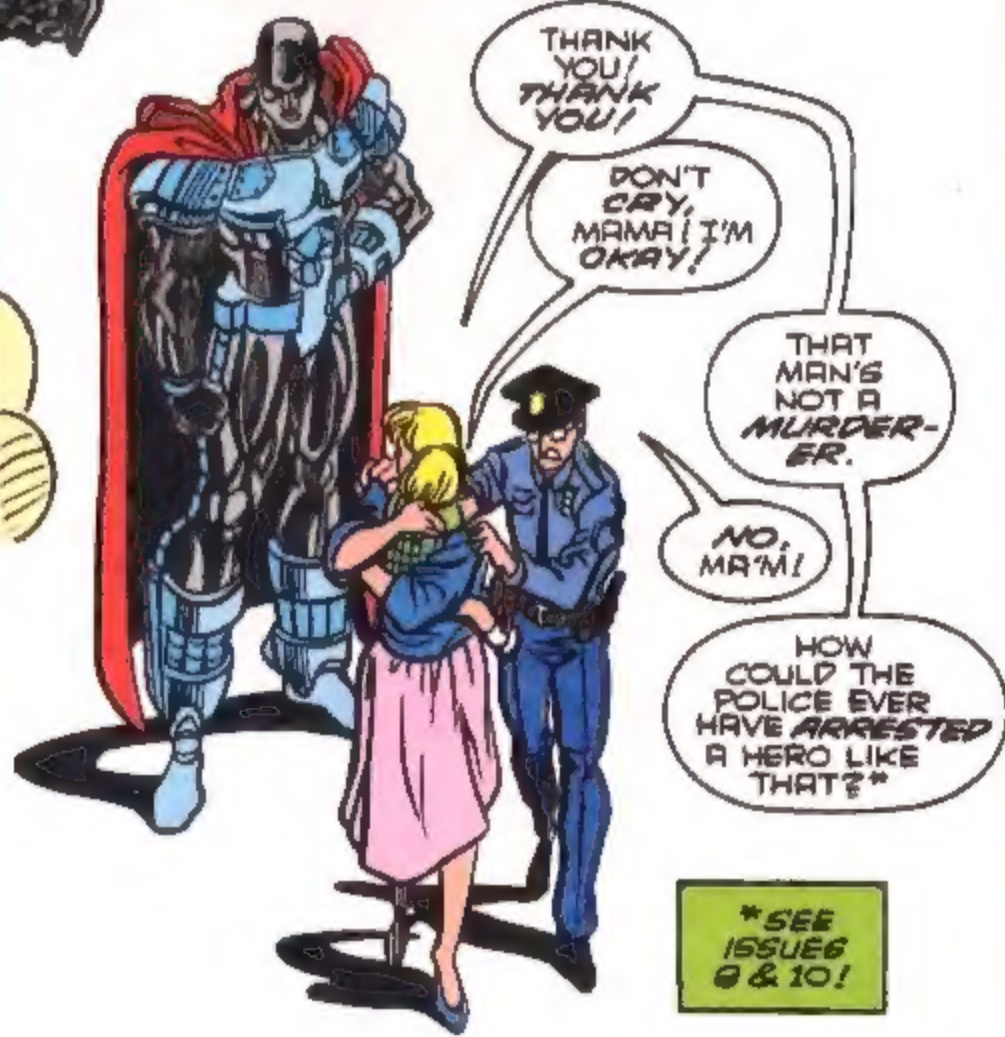
THAT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR STEEL TO CARRY HER... AND TO PROTECT HER.

HE WON'T LET ADDIE—



MAMA! HERE I AM!

ADDIE! OH GOD-- ADDIE!



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

DON'T CRY, MAMA! I'M OKAY!

THAT MAN'S NOT A MURDERER.

NO, MA'M!

HOW COULD THE POLICE EVER HAVE ARRESTED A HERO LIKE THAT?*

*SEE ISSUE 6 & 10!



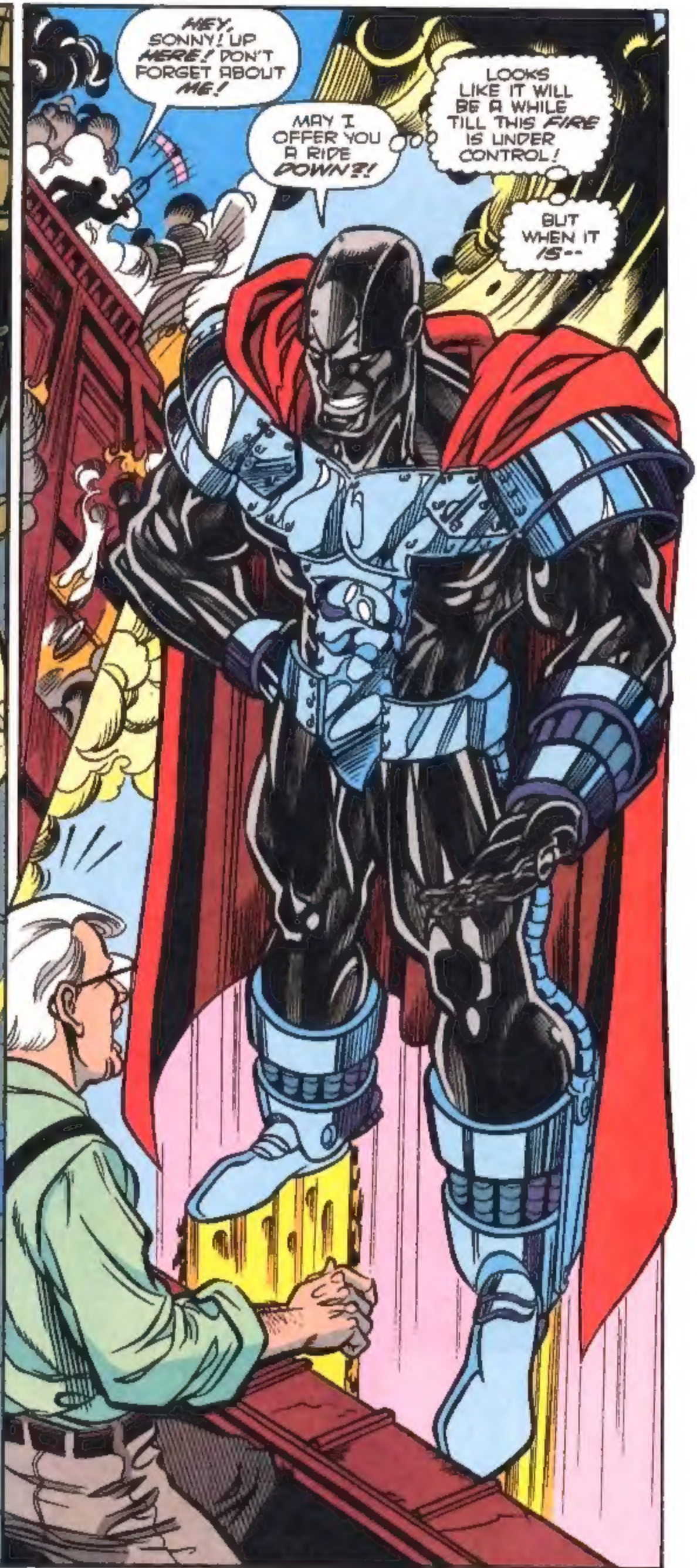
I'VE GOT AN **INTERNS** JOB WORKING FOR SCHOOL CREDIT IN SENATOR WEAVER'S OFFICE.

I'M GOING TO **TELL** THE SENATOR!

THERE OUGHT TO BE A **LAW** AGAINST **TINDER-BOX** BUILDINGS LIKE THIS.

THERE PROBABLY **IS**, NAT, BUT NOT EVERYBODY **OBEYS** THE LAW.

JEM, LOOK! THERE ARE PEOPLE UP THERE TRAPPED ON THE **ROOF**!



HEY, SONNY! UP **HERE!** DON'T FORGET ABOUT **ME!**

MAY I OFFER YOU A RIDE **DOWN?**

LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE A WHILE TILL THIS **FIRE** IS UNDER CONTROL!

BUT WHEN IT **IS--**

"--I WANT TO CHECK THE COAST FOR **DAMAGE** IN THE AFTERMATH OF YESTERDAY'S STORM."

SHORE LOOKS OKAY. NOT EVEN MUCH **EROSION**. COULD BE A LOT **WORSE**.

EVERYTHING COULD BE WORSE. ROSIE'S DEAD...

...BUT AT LEAST WE CAUGHT HER **KILLER**. **SHAUNA** AND I-- TOGETHER.

STAR LABS HAS **ALTER** IN CUSTODY NOW... WON'T LET HIM GET **AWAY**.

THE WORLD IS **SAFE**--

WHAT **THE--?**

MY **ARMOR!** IT **DISAPPEARED!**

SPLASH!

"**DAMN!**"

SHARKS!

CAN'T
GET
AWAY
IN TIME!

COULD
HAZARD
HAVE A HAND
IN THIS?

ONLY
ONE
THING
TO DO.

FIND
HIS *SPY-
SATELLITE*
AND FOLLOW
ITS *TRANS-
MISSIONS*
BACK TO
HIM.

IT
DOESN'T
ADD
UP!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MY
85%#
ARMOR?!

IT'S BACK!
THANK
HEAVEN!

THIS
HAPPENED
AT HAZARD'S
H.Q. HE
THREATENED
MY LIFE...

CHOMP

KLANG!

...AND
MY ARMOR
SURROUNDED
ME.

THOUGHT
IT WAS A
FLUKE
CAUSED BY
HAZARD'S *IN-
TERFERENCE*.

"SUPERMAN SAID THAT IF I EVER NEEDED TECHNICAL BACKUP I SHOULD CONTACT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE."

"IF EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD IS TRUE, CAPTAIN ATOM'S GROUP IS THE ONE I NEED."

"AND THANKS TO SUPERMAN, I KNOW WHERE TO FIND THEM."

DAD-BLAMED COMPUTERS!

THEY WERE WORKING FINE WHEN I SET THEM UP!

SOFTWARE CHECKS OUT, BUG! THEY'VE CRASHED. WHAT NOW?

WE SPILL THE BAGBITER'S GLITS ONTO THE FLOOR AND LOOK FOR GLITCHES!

YOU KNOW THOSE WIDGETS CONTROL OUR PERIMETER DEFENSE SYSTEM?

WELL, CALL ME A CRAZY, BUT WOULDN'T THIS BE A PEACHY-KEEN TIME FOR AN ENEMY TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK?

BITE YOUR TONGUE, BOOSTER!

WHY MUST WE DO DIAGNOSTICS ON EVERYTHING?

JUST BECAUSE THE PDC'S ARE DOWN DOES NOT MEAN THE ASTRAL COMPUTERS ARE MALFUNCTIONING.

YOU WOULD NOT.

WHAT'S THIS?

WHAT'S WHAT?

A BLIP... IT'S GONE NOW! BUT SOMETHING ABOUT IT SEEMED... FAMILAR.

THEY SHARE THE SAME DESIGN, MAXIMA, AND THIS SUPERHERO STUFF IS NEW TO ME, SO I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES.

THE COMPUTERS DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ITS SILHOUETTE AS A SHIP.

IF THERE WAS ACTUALLY ANYTHING THERE, IT COULD BE A MALFUNCTION.



OR IT COULD BE CLOAKED.

I'VE HAD IT WITH BEING TRAPPED IN-DOORS, STARING AT MALFUNCTIONING COMPUTERS.

YOU CHILDREN STAY HERE AND PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS, I'M GOING TO CHECK OUT THAT SPACE ANOMALY IN PERSON.

YEAH, RIGHT, YOU CYBER-PHOBIC. GRONK OUT! LEAVE US TO DO THE DIRTY WORK--

FOUND IT, BEATLE! BAD MOTHER-BOARD!

REPLACE IT AND-- VOILA...



...WE'RE BACK ON LINE!

APPARENTLY SO.

NOT ANOTHER MALFUNCTION!



THIS ISN'T A GLITCH.

AN UN-IDENTIFIED MISSILE IS APPROACHING.

STOP SHOUTING, AMAZING MAN. YOU WILL LEARN MORE.

AMAZING, ISN'T IT, MAN? TOO BAD YOU CAN'T FLY!

CAPTAIN ATOM! MAXIMA! BOOSTER GOLD! SCRAMBLE!



WHAT
THE
HECK--?

FALSE ALARM!
IT'S STEEL! BUT
MAXIMA'S NOT
STOPPING! WHAT'S
THE MATTER WITH
HER?

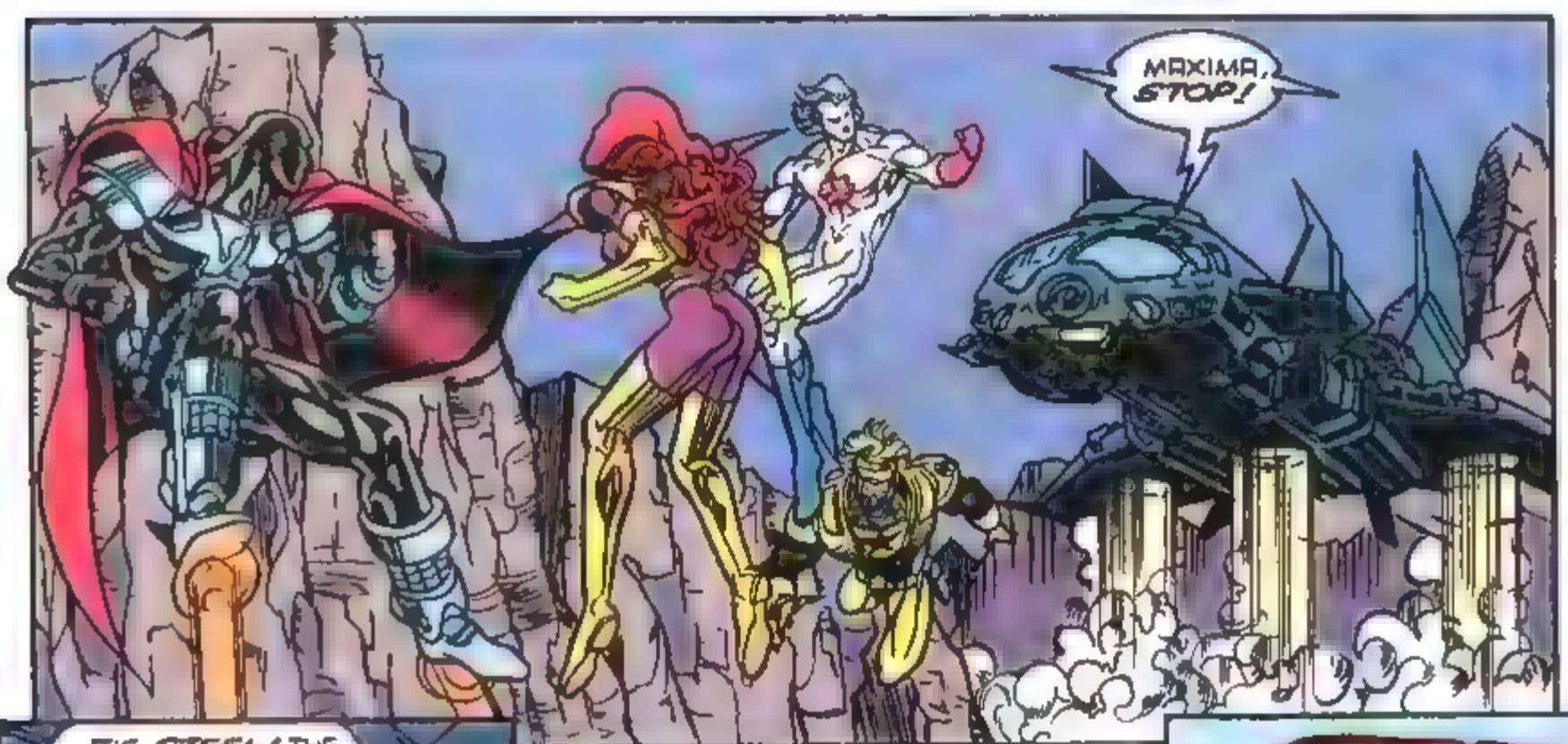
MAXIMA!
WAIT!!

BRAVE
FOOL --
ATTACKING
OUR HEAD-
QUARTERS
ALONE!

LOOKS
LIKE HE'S
RESISTING
MAXIMA'S
TELEKINETIC
CONTROL.
BUT HOW...?

IS IT
HIM...
OR HIS
ARMOR?

BATISTA
RJABER



IT'S *STEEL*! THE COMPUTERS HAVE RECOGNIZED AND *RAISED* ON HIM

AT THAT RANGE YOU SHOULD HAVE, TOO

WELCOME TO *JUSTICE LEAGUE*... *WEST*, STEEL! WHAT CAN WE DO TO *HELP* YOU?

I--

OH, YES, OF *COURSE*, STEEL.

SUPERMAN TOLD US *ALL* ABOUT YOU

YOU WERE ABLE TO *RESIST* MY *TELEKINESIS*. HOW DID YOU *DO* IT?

SORRY, *PROFES-SIONAL SECRET*.

SHLUPHIE

I SUSPECT IT WAS THE SAME ...*GLITCH* THAT MAKES MY ARMOR *APPEAR* AND *DISAPPEAR*

WHAT-*EVER* THAT IS

MAYBE I SHOULD *ASK BLUE BEETLE*...

"TO
CHECK
IT OUT."

...SO YOU
SEE, MY ARMOR
SEEMS TO HAVE
DEVELOPED A WILL
OF ITS OWN.

DON'T
APPEAR
TO BE
SENTIENT
AT ANY
RATE

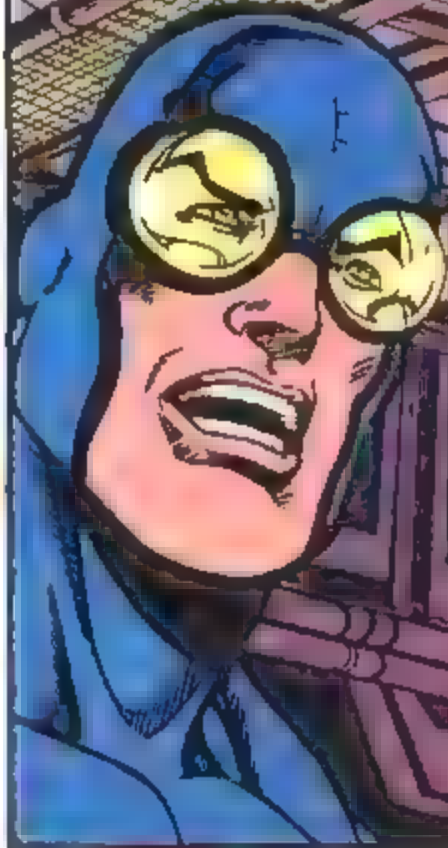
I'M
GETTING
SOME ODD
READINGS,
BUT WHETHER
IT'S FROM
YOU OR THE
ARMOR...

...IT'S
HARD TO
TELL WITH-
OUT FURTHER
TESTS.

MAYBE
WHEN I
GET
BACK.

THE
GLITCH SEEMS
MOSTLY BENIGN.
TWICE IT SAVED
MY LIFE.

AND ONCE
IT DUMPED
YOU INTO SHARK-
INFESTED
WATERS. WHAT'S
YOUR HURRY?



A VILLAIN
WHO CALLS
HIMSELF
HAZARD HAS
A JAW-DROPPING
SATELLITE
IN ORBIT.

HE SEEMS
TO HAVE BIG
PLANS TO
RULE THE
WORLD

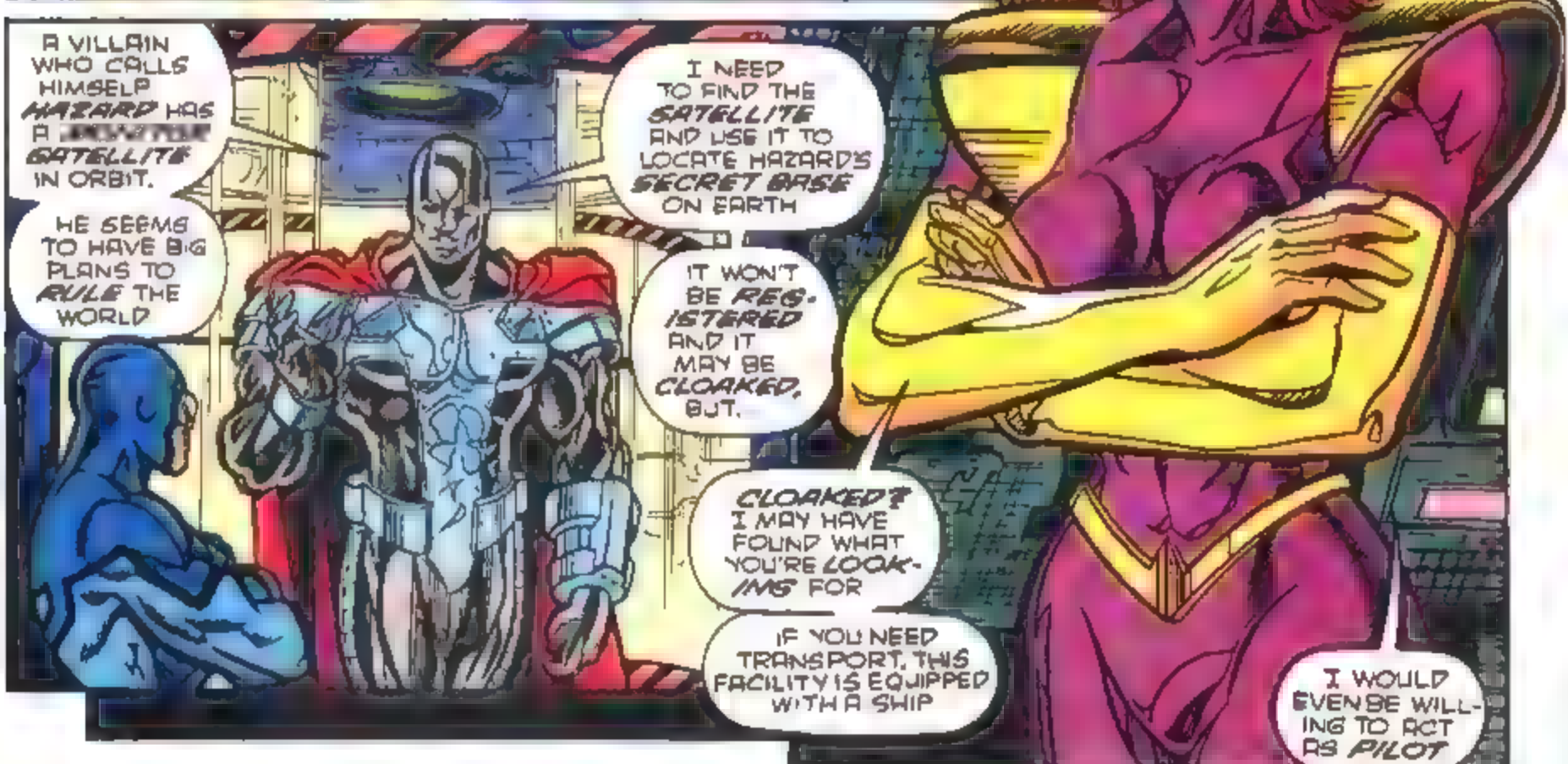
I NEED
TO FIND THE
SATELLITE
AND USE IT TO
LOCATE HAZARD'S
SECRET BASE
ON EARTH

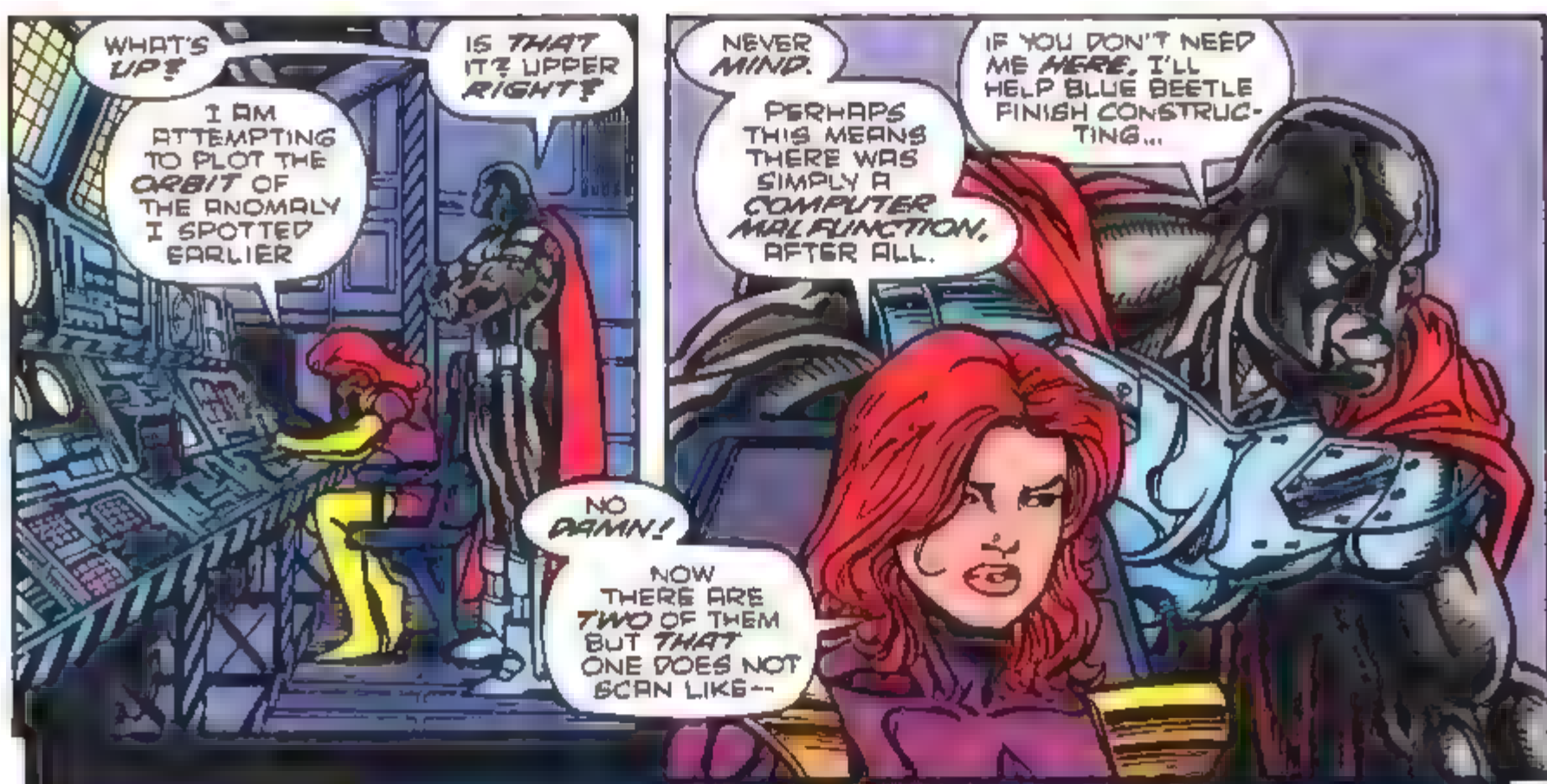
IT WON'T
BE REG-
ISTERED
AND IT
MAY BE
CLOAKED,
BUT...

CLOAKED?
I MAY HAVE
FOUND WHAT
YOU'RE LOOK-
ING FOR

IF YOU NEED
TRANSPORT, THIS
FACILITY IS EQUIPPED
WITH A SHIP

I WOULD
EVEN BE WILL-
ING TO ACT
AS PILOT





WHAT'S UP?

I AM ATTEMPTING TO PLOT THE ORBIT OF THE ANOMALY I SPOTTED EARLIER

IS THAT IT? UPPER RIGHT?

NEVER MIND.

PERHAPS THIS MEANS THERE WAS SIMPLY A COMPUTER MALFUNCTION, AFTER ALL.

IF YOU DON'T NEED ME HERE, I'LL HELP BLUE BEETLE FINISH CONSTRUCTING...

NO DAMN!

NOW THERE ARE TWO OF THEM BUT THAT ONE DOES NOT SCAN LIKE--

"MY BREATHING APPARATUS."

HOW'S IT GOING?

BEETLE ALMOST HAS IT.

YOU KNOW, GOGGLES LIKE MINE MIGHT IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR ARMOR

I'VE CONSIDERED IT, BOOSTER

I'LL GIVE THE ARMOR A REAL OVERHAUL...

...WHEN I GET BACK FROM THIS MISSION.

WE ARE GOING TO CHECK THE FIRST ANOMALY I SPOTTED

WHY THAT ONE, MAXIMA? THE OTHER'S CLOSER.

BUT THIS ONE SEEMED TO HAVE THE ENERGY PROFILE OF A KRENON SHIP

WELL, I NEED TO FIND HAZARD'S SATELLITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--

AND I NEED TO ASSURE MYSELF THAT THE KRENONS ARE **NOT** IN ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH

SO I DON'T SUPPOSE OUR COURSE IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION?

DISCUSSION WOULD BE FOOLISH.

NOTHING YOUR HAZARD COULD DO WOULD COMPARE TO THE **DESTRUCTION** A KRENON **BATTLE CRUISER** COULD WREAK ON EARTH

REALLY? WELL THERE'S YOUR **ANOMALY**, MAXIMA.

CLOAKED IN SPACE!

GOOD WE WILL PUT THIS CRAFT INTO ORBIT, DROP ONTO THEIR **HULL...**

AND ENTER THROUGH AN **AIRLOCK.**





AND WE'LL LEARN FOR OURSELVES WHAT IT IS **DOING** HERE.

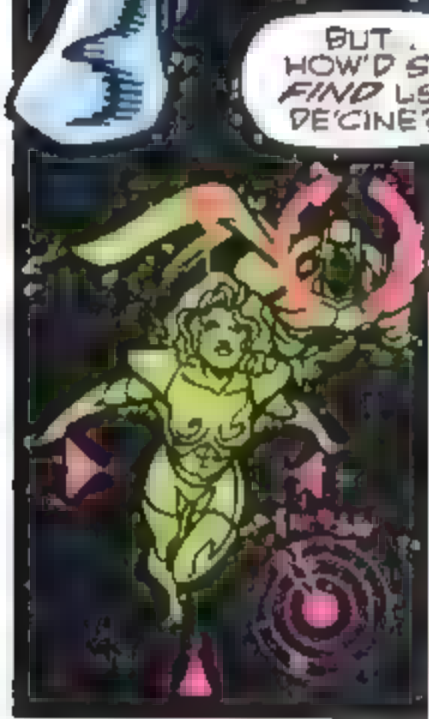
OH YEAH?

THIS IS THE SORT OF THING WE WERE TAUGHT AS **CHILDREN** ON ALMERAC.

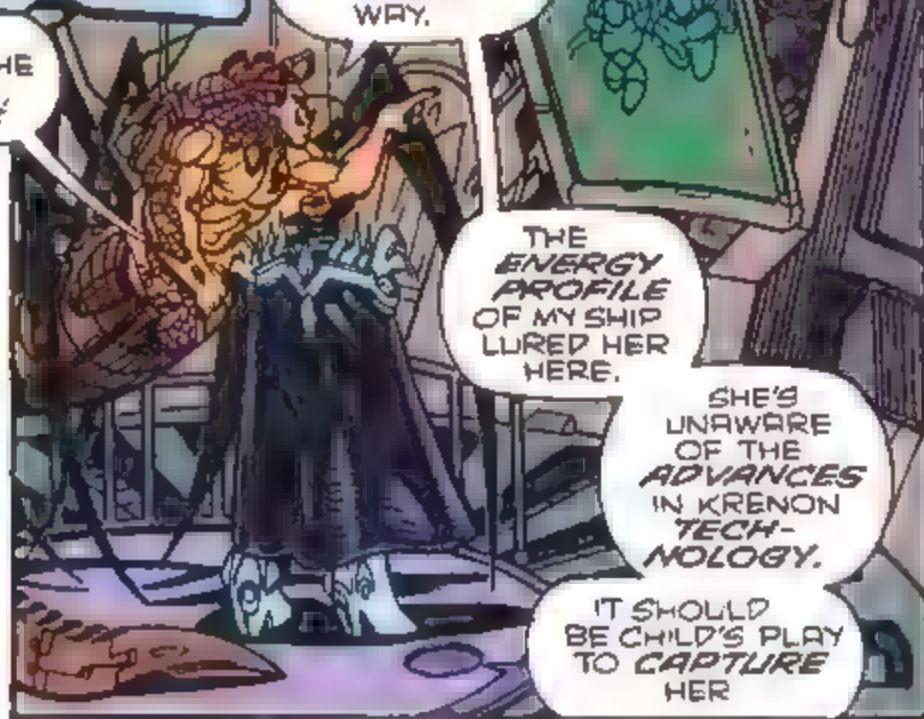
...WHILE YOU WERE **PLAYING** WITH YOUR BATS AND BALLS.

COME! WE'LL MAINTAIN **SECURITY** BY COMMUNICATING TELEPATHICALLY

AND WHAT WILL WE DO IF THIS DANGEROUS **KRENON** FINDS OUT WE'RE **HERE?**



BUT HOW'D SHE **FIND** US, DE'GINE?



I **PLANNED** IT THAT WAY.

THE **ENERGY PROFILE** OF MY SHIP LURED HER HERE.

SHE'S UNAWARE OF THE **ADVANCES** IN KRENON **TECHNOLOGY**.

IT SHOULD BE CHILD'S PLAY TO **CAPTURE** HER



BUT WHO'S THAT **OTHER** FELLA?

I HAVEN'T GOT A **CLUE**.

I DON'T SUPPOSE HE'LL **MATTER** MUCH IN ANY CASE.

"IF WE HURRY
WE CAN GREET
THEM WHEN
THEY ARRIVE."

YOU
NEEDN'T
COME IF
YOU THINK
MY PLAN IS
FOOLISH.

WHAT YOU
WOULD STRAIN
YOUR **MUSCLES**
TO OPEN, I
ACCOMPLISH
WITH MEREST
THOUGHT.

AND
WHAT'S TO
KEEP THE
SHIP FROM
TELLING THIS
BEING THAT
WE'VE BROKEN
IN?

AFTER ALL,
WHEN
SUPERMAN
WAS THOUGHT
TO BE
DEAD...

YOU
HAD THE
AUDACITY
TO TRY TO TAKE
HIS **PLACE**.
BUT DO NOT
WORRY.

THE **KRENON**
WILL NOT BE
EXPECTING AN
ALMERACIAN--
AND I WILL
TAKE HIM BY
SURPRISE

THE
PRINCESS
MAXIMA
AND HER EN-
TOURAGE.

I'M SO
PLEASED
YOU DESIGNED
TO VISIT ME
WELCOME TO
MY **SHIP!**

I
WOULDN'T
MISS IT
FOR THE
WORLD
ASSUMING
THE THING IS
KRENON...

WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK WE
STAND A
CHANCE?

IT IS
KRENON.
BUT KRENONS
TRAVEL
SINGLY...

...OCCASIONALLY
IN **PAIRS**
WHEN ONE OF
THEM IS CLEARLY
SUBORDINATE
TO THE OTHER

THEIR
SHIPS ARE
FULLY **AUTO-**
MATED.

BUT WE
ALMERACIANS
ARE GENETICALLY
SUPERIOR

NOW
THAT WE'RE
IN, IT DOES NOT
MATTER.

AND WHO
AND WHAT
WILL STOP
THEM FROM
KICKING OUR
BUTTS?

I THOUGHT
PERHAPS **YOU**
WOULD VOLUNTEER
FOR THAT ASSIGN-
MENT

DE'CINE!

YOU
KNOW
THIS...
THING?

THESE ARE
KRENONS.
STEEL. I DO NOT
KNOW THE LITTLE
ONE, BUT THE
LARGE, UGLY
ONE IS
DE'CINE.

HIS FAMILY
RULES KRENO,
AND OUR
FAMILIES HAVE
HAD *DEALINGS*
FOR GENERA-
TIONS.

AT ONE TIME,
HIS MOTHER
SUGGESTED A
BETROTHAL
BETWEEN US.

SHE
WHAT--
E!!

HOLD
IT RIGHT
THERE!

MY DUTY
IS TO BEAR
GENETICALLY
SUPERIOR
CHILDREN...

...NOT
MONSTERS.
AND *WEAK-*
LINGS...

...SINCE
KRENONS CAN-
NOT WITHSTAND
ALMERACIAN
MIND-BOLTS!

AT ONE
TIME,
PERHAPS.

ALMERAC
REFUSED,
OF COURSE.

BUT
KRENO HAS
CREATED NEW
TECHNOLOGY
SINCE YOU LEFT
ALMERAC...

OHH!

MAXIMA!

...REFLECTOR
SHIELDS THAT
DEFLECT MENTAL
ATTACKS BACK
ONTO THE
ATTACKERS.

THAT WOULD'VE
KILLED ANY-
BODY BUT AN
ALMERACIAN.
SHE'LL BE
FINE.

SO GET
BACK,
STEEL!

I SAID--
GET BACK!

BLOW!

DE'CINE'S
TAKING
MAXIMA!
GOT TO
STOP HIM!

AND THAT
MEANS TAKING
OUT HIS
"PARDONAH" FIRST!

POW!

THOOM

POOW!

YOW!
FANCY
SHOOTIN'
FOR A
TENDER-
FOOT!

CANNOT
BELIEVE...I
FELL FOR
IT! MUST BE
...LOSING MY
EDGE!

THOUGH
I AM NOT
QUITE AS
UNCON-
SCIOUS...

DE'CINE
SET...
TRAP!

DE'CINE!

"...AS DE'CINE
BELIEVES.
SOON I WILL
BE **STRONG**
ENOUGH..."

"...TO BRING
THE **CEILING**
CRASHING ON
HIS **HEAD.**"

WHOOOSH!

KER WHAM!

THE
INHIBITOR
BEAM, B'ARD!
SWITCH ON THE
INHIBITOR
BEAM!

WHRT--ZIZ?

**BEEP
BEEP
BEEP**

DE'CINE--
WHAT IS
THIS...
TRICK?

YOU ARE
CAUGHT IN
AN INHIBITOR
BEAM.

YET ANOTHER
OF THE KRENON
**TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES**
I MENTIONED
EARLIER.

IT
BLOCKS
YOUR ABILITY
TO USE YOUR
TELEKINETIC
POWERS,
MAXIMA.

AND ANY
POWERS
STEEL
MIGHT
HAVE AS
WELL.

SO
THIS IS
MAXIMA.

SHE'S MORE
MAGNIFICENT
THAN HER
HOLO-PRO-
JECTIONS!

WHAT'LL
WE DO
WITH THIS
HERE
"STEEL"?

ENERGY
READINGS
SUGGEST
THAT HE
MIGHT BE A
CYBORG...

...AND MY
MOTHER
IS ALWAYS
INTERESTED
IN NEW **CYBORG**
**TECHNOLO-
GY.**

WE'LL
TAKE HIM
WITH
US...

...AND HE
CAN WITNESS
MY **MARRIAGE**
TO THE **PRINCESS**
MAXIMA!

TO BE CONTINUED...